

## INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Entitlement to Family Separation Allowance (FSA) for Member Married to Member Without Other Dependents

1. PURPOSE. To inform commands about the entitlement to FSA for service member (SM) married to SM without other dependents.
2. BOTTOM LINE. FSA-Type T (FSA-T) is payable to a member married to another member when all other general conditions are met and provided members were residing together immediately before being separated by reason of execution of military orders.
3. DISCUSSION.
  - a. FSA-T provides compensation for added expenses incurred because of an enforced family separation and is payable to qualified members serving inside or outside the United States. To qualify, government-enforced separation of the SM and the spouse must exist.
  - b. DoD Financial Management Regulation (DoDFMR), paragraph 270203 outlines the geographic separation as: "A distance of 50 miles, one way, is normally considered to be within reasonable commuting distance of a station; however, the 50-mile rule is not inflexible." When the distance involved is less than 50 miles one way but the time required to commute one way by commonly used route and method of transportation exceeds 1-1/2 hours, dependents shall be considered as not residing near the member's duty station unless the member actually commutes daily. DoDFMR volume 7A defines duty station as "the place at which the member is assigned for regular duty; also, the place at which **the member performs an assigned duty.**"
  - c. DoDFMR volume 7A states FSA-T is payable when "the member is on TDY (or temporary additional duty) away from the permanent station continuously for more than 30 days, and **the member's dependents are not residing at or near the TDY station** (Chapter 27, paragraph 270104A3)."

Example: SM is assigned to and stationed in Baumholder, Germany. SM is sent TDY to Vilseck, Germany for 45 days and the dependent stays in Baumholder. Distance to TDY point is 272.2 miles. SM is entitled to FSA-T.

Example: SM is deployed to Tuzla Main, Bosnia-Herzegovina. The spouse is deployed to Taszar, Hungary for 6 months. Distance between TDY points is 180.5 miles. The first SM

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deployed is entitled to FSA-T. If both SMs are deployed at the same time, the senior SM is entitled to FSA-T.

Example: Both the SM and spouse are assigned to and stationed in Fort Stewart, Georgia. One SM is deployed to Camp McGovern, Bosnia-Herzegovina for 6 months. SM deployed is entitled to FSA-T.

d. DoDFMR, paragraph 270203 states when "dependents reside near duty station...FSA does not accrue to a member **if all of the dependents reside at or near the duty station.**" Members located at the same duty station preclude the entitlement to FSA-T. Although in some instances the SMs are not permitted to reside in the same household during deployment (room, sea hut, tent, etc.), the SMs still reside at or near the same duty station.

Example: SM is assigned to and stationed in Baumholder, Germany. SM is sent TDY to Vilseck, Germany for 45 days. If the spouse accompanies the SM, the SM is not entitled to FSA-T.

Example: SM is deployed to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. The spouse is deployed to Camp Monteith, Kosovo for 6 months. Distance between camps is approximately 15 miles and 45-60 minutes apart. Neither SM is entitled to FSA-T.

Example: Both the SM and spouse are deployed to Camp Able Sentry, Macedonia for 6 months. The SM and spouse, based on local policy, are not allowed to reside together (within the room, sea hut, tent, etc.). The JTF CINC's decision to disallow SMs married to SMs to cohabitate is a decision made based on local policy and/or threat conditions. However, based on regulatory guidance, deployment to the same base camp in support of an operation is considered at or near the duty station. Neither SM is entitled to FSA-T.

Approved: Mr. Stephen Bridges, Finance and Accounting Policy

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